

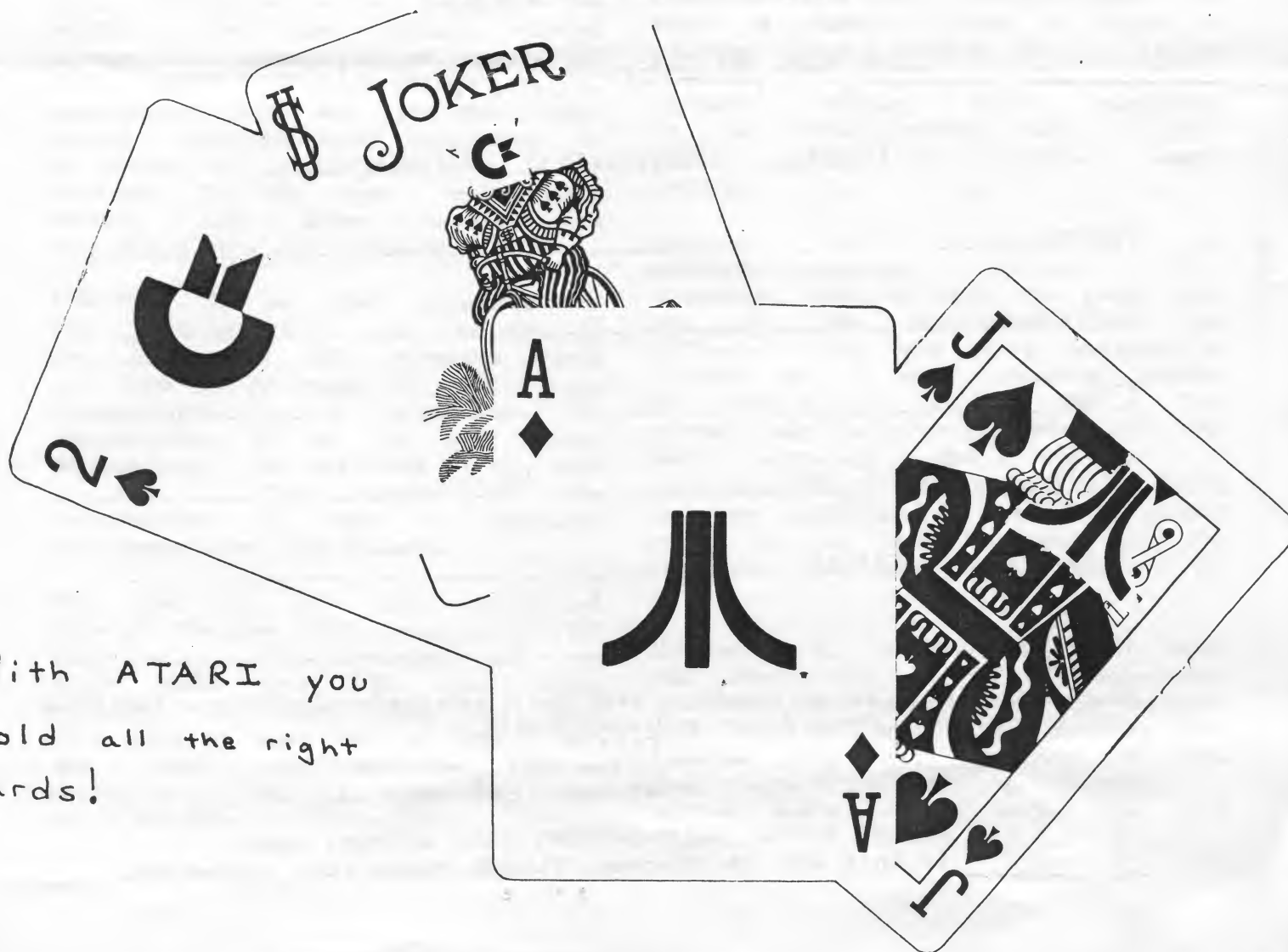
September '88

TWIN CITIES ATARI INTEREST GROUP

READ THE BOTTOM OF PAGE 2!!!

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With ATARI you
hold all the right
cards!

The TAIG Newsletter

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SysOp	Ken Modeen
8-Bit DOM	Greg Gibbons

If you represent another Atari users group that wishes to exchange newsletters, please mail a copy of your newsletter to TAIG.

Articles should be submitted in standard text files such as Atari Writer, SpeedScript, Word Writer etc. Please save files in ASCII with NO text formatting codes. You can send the article to TAIG, drop it off at a meeting or upload it to the BBS.

Any storage media will be returned at the next meeting or mailed to you.

Membership	Ken Modeen
BBS	425-2533
*** Newsletter ***	
EDITOR	COURIER
Nathan Block	David Saari

TAIG Membership Application

New____ Renewal____ Change____

Name_____

Address_____

City_____

State____ Zip Code_____ Phone_____

Type of computer_____

Interests_____

Membership dues are \$15 per family per year. Please make checks payable to the Twin Cities Atari Interest Group. Please do not mail cash. Mail to:

TAIG
PO Box 26128
Minneapolis, Mn. 55426



PLEASE RENEW. HELP SUPPORT TAIG SUPPORT YOU!

If this box is checked, PLEASE renew your membership _____

ATARI-NLQ II **for the Atari XMM801 printer**

reviewed by Jim Johnson

Terry Ortman of STARFLEET SOFTWARE has been busy the past five months. You may recall my positive review of Atari-NLQ and Atari-MAGIC! in an earlier issue of this newsletter. Well, that software is now in my archive collection. If you own Atari's XMM801 printer, buy Atari-NLQ II. The programs on this disk comprise the best utilities I have ever used with my XMM801.

You have likely heard of **Daisy-Dots II**, a set of four programs placed in the public domain by Roy Goldman which perform miracles with Epson printers. According to Ortman, Atari-NLQ II is based on Daisy-Dots II, but is not a simple modification to support the XMM801. The code contains routines written to maximize output quality on the XMM801. Atari-NLQ II is copyrighted, and NOT in the public domain. Although most documents can be printed by either Daisy-Dots II or Atari-NLQ II and their corresponding printers with similar results, the software is otherwise incompatible.

Atari-NLQ II is also comprised of four programs which are included on the disk, along with numerous fonts and close to 30 pages of user printed documentation. I guarantee the documentation to be the best looking documentation you will ever print from a disk. The quality of the documentation is also a significant improvement over prior releases.

The disk is not copy protected, although the one BASIC program is LIST protected. The programs will run under almost any DOS, from floppy, hard, or RAM disk, using any Atari 8-bit with at least 48K of RAM. With the except of a two sector configuration file, all the files can be on any drive, or subdirectory.

As in Daisy-Dots II, three programs comprise Atari-NLQ II: the Print Processor, the Font Editor, and Font Utilities. These programs are compiled from C code with machine language routines. Also included is Magnify, a BASIC program which either pre-processes picture files for use in Atari-NLQ II, or prints pictures in any size up to 95 feet by 100 feet (If your printer doesn't burn out long before the 66 days and 17,920 sheets of paper it requires!).

The **Print Processor** is the program that creates such magnificent output from an eight pin dot matrix printer. Basic print formatting, initial font type and selected pages to print are controlled from a menu. The menu duplicates functions provided by Atari-NLQ (I), and has some significant additions. The ability to select all pages, a range of pages, or odd/even page printing is a terrific boon to productivity. The odd/even capability enables such possibilities as two sided printing with a book binding edge, or multiple column printing.

Advanced print formatting is achieved through imbedded text commands; which is both the power and one of the weaknesses of this software. The text of a document is created with a word processor capable of "printing" to a disk file. This printed text is then reloaded into the word processor and Atari-NLQ II formatting commands added. Depending on how sophisticated the final output needs to be and the size of the document, this could take quite a bit of time.

However, if sophistication is what you need, you won't be disappointed. Indeed, it is tempting to use effects just because they are available, not because they add something to the final output. It is possible to control where text is placed; the font

used and spacing for EACH character, plus underlining and character density. It doesn't matter whether you chose block right, left, both (full justification) or centered, spacing is always proportional, unless a non-proportional font is specifically used. Atari-NLQ II also allows files to be sent verbatim to the printer anywhere between text lines. This means pictures, graphs, or even standard draft quality text can be printed inside documents. If your document is larger than your word processor can handle at one time, it is easy to chain files together into a seamless unity.

The second weakness of the Print Processor is also linked to time. The disk based documentation takes a good couple hours to print. Each double density line is printed in two passes of the print head in high density (960 dots per line) graphics mode. In other words, each line requires a little less than 2,000 bytes of computer output. Bold double density lines require four passes. The XMM801 is a serial printer and only has an 80 byte internal buffer (which is why bi-directional draft printing is only supported at 10 cpi). When you print a document with Atari-NLQ II, find something else to do for awhile. Your computer will be busy spoon feeding your printer.

Several fonts come with the software. If you bought Atari-NLQ (I) and/or Atari-MAGICI, the NLQ fonts on those disks are also compatible. Between the three disks, 29 different fonts are available. Daisy-Dots fonts are not compatible. If this is insufficient, two font programs are included. The **Font Editor** allows you to create and edit custom NLQ fonts. Although easy to use, I'm not much of an artist and would likely not use this program very much for original designs. On the other hand, the **Font Utilities** is perfect for me. This program can convert any one of the

hundreds of standard nine sector Atari fonts to NLQ non-proportional format. The font can be made proportional using the **Font Editor** to strip the excess space from the sides of each character. The **Font Utility** can also take any NLQ font and create an italicized version.

Magnify is the fourth program on the disk. This program will also be on an upcoming XMM801 Utilities #4 disk. XMM801 owners who love printed graphics, but aren't into word processing will still find this BASIC program useful. All picture files must be in standard 82 sector format. Koala or other picture compression formats are not supported. (Several graphics file format converters have been published, so this isn't a major problem.) Graphics modes 7, 7+, 8, and 9 are supported. Modes 7 and 7+ are printed in up to four shades or as a mode 8 picture; mode 8 is printed exactly as displayed; and mode 9 is printed with up to 16 patterned shades.

Magnify supports size control (up to the ridiculous example mentioned earlier); low or high density; normal or inverse shading; horizontal or vertical orientation; and for small pictures, left, right, or centered output. It also reports how many sheets of paper will be required, and the nominal printing time. It has a pause feature to change ribbons, or allow the printer to cool down in the middle of large pictures. Printing can also be aborted without killing the program.

Graphics are placed in Atari-NLQ II documents using the print-to-file option and the appropriate imbedded print command. Keep in mind that pictures printed to a disk file are BIG. Expect roughly one single density disk for each full page. With careful planning, and a fair chunk of time, Atari-NLQ II can give the XMM801 owner output rivaling, if not quite

(NEXT PAGE)

Well, I received many good comments on the newsletter last month. I hope I am truly doing the good job that those people said I was! My apologies for a few editing errors that escaped me last month. The newsletter is turning out to be a real costly item of the club, there are many ways that you can help us keep the cost down. Please tell us about address changes to save that wasted postage. Also, if you know of a company that might want to advertise a product of any sort, computer or otherwise, in this newsletter, PLEASE tell them about it! Our rates are very reasonable: \$10 pays for a quarter page advertisement, \$15 for a half page, and \$25 for a full page. Also, if you want to advertise something, you can use your membership rights to get your for sale or wanted lines under the CLASSIFIEDS section. KIDS, if you have a high score, a quarter will get it posted in here for all to see!!!

Also it would be really nice to see our members at the meetings. In the three years that I have been a member, I have missed one meeting. I am sure that you people who have cars could out match that easily. Also, support your club with written material for the newsletter and maybe buy a DOM for your software library. Greg Bibbons does an outstanding job each month putting together a double sided disk full of quality public domain programs. When you buy a DOM you are showing Greg you appreciate his efforts as well as supporting the club you joined.

I didn't receive any SKUTTLEBUTT this month so I put together what I could find. Also the Classifieds will not appear due to no material submitted there. PLEASE give me some material to work with! This newsletter is what you make it I cannot write everything. A big thank you is in order to Jim Johnson who wrote several articles this month. Also thanks again to Steven Ingalsbe who gave quite a bit last month.

Well, that's it for now! See you all later and let me know what you think of the newsletter!

Nathan Stock

TAIG IS SELLING

Blank Disks (10) \$4
Cute Label Paks \$20
DOMS \$6

Contact us through our P.O. Box for more information!

Get it for only \$6!!!
Write to TAIG now!

DAISY DOT IIIII

The DOM this month is...

DOM Report!

Get it for only \$6!!!

DAISY DOT IIIII

The DOM this month is...

DOM Report!

STANFLEET SOFTWARE, Company
1037 West Lealand Avenue
Becatur, Illinois 62522-7587

One way to reduce some of the unproductive time is with the use of a ramdisk and a word processor that allows an exit to DOS without re-booting (such as Text-Pro). I have AtariWriter Plus on my Multi I/O Board along with Atari-NLA II running under SpartaDOS. It takes mere seconds to exit and reload software. Although I ALWAYS keep a copy of each file on floppy, I save wear on my floppy drive and improve speed by printing from RAM.

Due to the complexity of the software and publication deadlines, I have not had time to extensively test this software. Yet, this article was printed with no difficulties or unexpected surprises on my XMM801. I can enthusiastically recommend it.

Atari-NLA II is available for \$20.00 from:

equal to, that of desktop publishing packages using 24 pin printers!

Many cartridges have been released for the ATARI XEGS, among the new ones: FOOD FIGHT and GATO. SUMMER GAMES is still being promised by Epyx and WINTER GAMES is supposed to follow. CALIFORNIA GAMES was released for the ATARI ST as well as for the 2600. If you are interested in getting WINTER GAMES and CALIFORNIA GAMES released for the ATARI 8-BIT write to:

PRESIDENT
Epyx, Inc.
600 Galveston Drive
P.O. Box 8020
Redwood City, CA
94063

I have heard that Global Commander has been released by DataSoft for the ATARI 8-BITS but I have no confirmation on this. Four new titles have been released by DataSoft, to my knowledge none of these are for the 8-BIT but all of these are for the ST. If interested write to:

PRESIDENT
DataSoft, Inc.
19808 Nordhoff Place
Chatsworth, CA
91311

Well, that's all I could find, please give me a hand with this, if you find out something new, please alert me.

Nathan Block

For Sale / Wanted

If you have anything you want to sell or if you are looking for something, here is your opportunity to let the other members know about it. As a TAIG member you can place free ads in the newsletter. Leave a message on the BBS or give the ad to me or one of the officers and it will appear in the next newsletter. This is your newsletter so make use of it.

- The Editors -

PROGRAMS FOR SALE! 6

TAIG sells quality double sided disks full of Public Domain programs to any ATARI member who is interested. These disks are called DOMs which is short for Disk Of the Month. Each month a new DOM is assembled by our Disk Librarian Greg Gibbons. You can purchase any of the many disks we have by mail for only \$6 per disk plus \$1 to cover postage costs. This price is quite small compared to the time put into the making and the many programs on the disk. For a FREE listing of the TAIG DOMs available for purchase, send your name and address to:

DOM LIBRARIAN
C/O TAIG
P.O. Box 26128
Minneapolis, MN
55426

You can also see the latest monthly DOM "live" at each TAIG meeting. If you are looking for quality programs to add to your library,

DON'T DELAY
WRITE TODAY!!



TAIG's BBS
To get the latest info concerning TAIG and Atari Computers, call the TAIG BBS at 425-2533. The BBS runs 24 hours.

NEXT

Meeting: September
25th

August 28th MEETING MINUTES
Secretary: Sue Loye

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by president Chuck Grimsby. The evening started out with the Secretary Sue Loye reading the minutes of the July meeting.

Ken Modeen read the treasurers report. Ken also says that the BBS is running fine and ST users can receive VT-52 screens.

There was no ST DOM this month. TAI6 needs a volunteer to fill this position.

The 8 bit DOM is Data X data base and AT8GIF 8 bit GIF graphics converter.

The newsletter received \$15.25 for advertising from The Computer Station. We also discussed a checkoff on the newsletter to show expired membership.

Michtrom for ST users has finally released 6FA basic 3.0.

Atari is moving its Taiwan plant to Houston, Texas.

User Friendly is now gone out of business. Mike Beam who was the real driving force behind User will still be doing repair work along the side. Watch the Classifieds in the paper!

Electronic Boutique in Maplewood Mall has Atari software. UPDATE: Software Enhancement and Associates, the makers of ARC, have successfully sued the makers of PK ARC for the IBM for copyright infringement.

Due to data loss Atari Corp. wishes all user groups who have not communicated with Atari in the last three months to reregister.

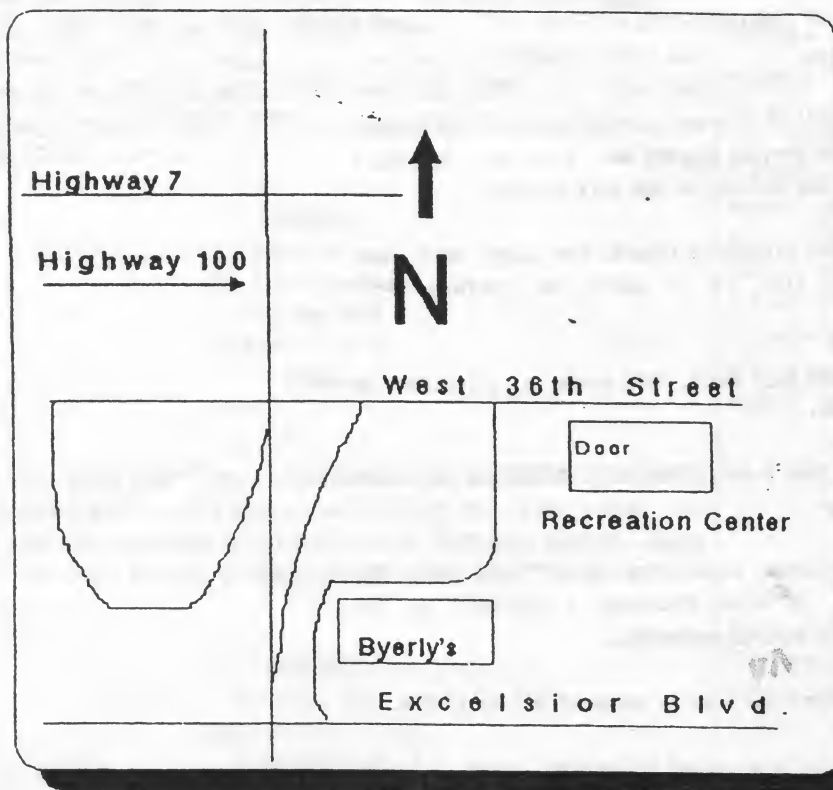
The 8 bit demo was Leader Board Dual Pack.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

(DOM report on page 5)

Editor

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TAIG holds it's monthly meetings at the St. Louis Park Recreation Center, which is located at 5005 West 36th Street in St. Louis Park. 3/4 mile east of highway 100 on west 36th, behind Byerly's.

Twin Cities Atari Interest Group
PO Box 26128
Minneapolis, Mn. 55426



Next TAIG Meeting :

September

25th

7:00 PM

First Class